

them to market, it creates jobs not only for researchers and inventors, but also for factory workers, distributors, sales associates, and marketing teams to name a few.

This bill will ensure that newly-issued patents will be strong, high-quality patents that have gone through rigorous review. It will modernize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to reduce the current backlog of more than 700,000 patent applications, and it will ensure that the PTO, with proper congressional oversight, is able to retain the fees it collects to fund its operations. Finally, this patent reform bill will go a long way towards eliminating the lawsuit abuse that has become so prevalent in recent years.

Of personal interest to me, I am pleased that the bill before us incorporates the changes to best mode that I obtained during the 2007 patent reform debate and floor vote.

American patent law currently requires that a patent application "set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention" at the time the application is filed. But providing the best mode is not a requirement in Europe, Japan or the rest of the world and it has become a vehicle for lawsuit abuse.

In my view, the best mode requirement of American law imposes extraordinary and unnecessary costs on inventors. I have maintained since 2007 that best mode should be repealed in full, and I would continue to support a full repeal if possible today.

But, at the very least, I am pleased that the bill before us, like my amendments from 2007, only retains best mode as a specifications requirement for obtaining a patent. Once the examiner is satisfied that the best mode has been disclosed, the issue is settled forever. Going forward, best mode cannot be used as a legal defense to infringement in patent litigation or a basis for a post-grant review proceeding.

The America Invents Act will enable America to continue to be the world's leader in innovation. It will lay the groundwork for intellectual property protection that will help grow our economy and create jobs both in the Hoosier state and across the nation.

After so many years, I am encouraged that we are on the cusp of passing this bill out of the Congress and sending it to the president. I urge my colleagues to support the America Invents Act today.

HONORING PROFESSOR MEL BARON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECEIPT OF THE PINNACLE AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION IN RECOGNITION OF HIS PIONEERING WORK TO ADDRESS THE PHARMACY NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Professor Mel Baron of the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy upon his receipt of the Pinnacle Award for Individual Achievement by the

American Pharmacists Association Foundation (APhA).

Dr. Baron, who is now celebrating his 52nd year in the pharmacy profession, ranks as a practice pioneer, an educational futurist and a regional force in meeting the pharmacy needs of our community. He has been a visionary in establishing pharmacy as part of the solution in meeting the health-care needs of Southern California's 2.7 million uninsured residents. Dr. Baron is a recognized leader in providing expanded pharmacy services in safety-net clinics that increase the number of patients served while also providing better and more cost-efficient care. His pioneering effort to secure USC's first funding grant for clinical pharmacy practice in safety-net clinics earned the School of Pharmacy the APhA Pinnacle Award for Group Practice, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) Best Practices Award and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's (AACCP) Transformative Community Service Award over the past few years.

Furthering his efforts to address the needs of underserved populations in Southern California, Dr. Baron has produced a series of Spanish and English fotonovelas (comic book-like pamphlets) on medication compliance, diabetes, folic acid, depression, dementia, pediatric asthma and childhood obesity. Recognizing the lack of culturally sensitive health information on these topics, Dr. Baron obtained grant funding to produce them. Through these materials, he has extended the reach of pharmacy expertise tremendously and offered vital information to the residents I represent in East Los Angeles. These fotonovelas have now been distributed across the country. In addition to the print versions, local actors have done theatrical readings of them at health fairs in Los Angeles. Currently, he is also leading an effort to produce a DVD series for prospective transplant patients and their families.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Baron worked in his own medical-building pharmacy. In the 1970s, he grew his business into a vibrant home-care pharmacy that met the pressing needs of patients struggling to live in a health-care environment with limited resources. At a time when home-care pharmacy services were in their infancy, Dr. Baron had the vision to use pharmacist expertise in the home-care setting to meet the needs of these patients.

Dr. Baron also approaches his teaching with excellence in mind. He originated externships for USC pharmacy students back in the 1980s—long before most pharmacy students were doing any clinical work in the early years of their curriculum. Dr. Baron recognized the wisdom of exposing pharmacy students to clinical settings early and often in their educational careers. Dr. Baron also has made it a priority to teach an annual course on leadership to pharmacy students.

Clearly, Dr. Baron has been at the forefront of the most pressing issues of pharmacy today. Through hard work, Dr. Baron's long and vibrant career has been marked by pioneering foresight and vision. In addition, his work has inspired students and served those in our community who are most vulnerable and in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Dr. Baron on his receipt of the Pinnacle Award and in thanking him for his half-century of exceptional service to our community. His tireless leadership, in-

novation and inspiration have made a tremendous contribution to our community and to the nation, and I extend to him my best wishes for many more successful years ahead.

YORK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT OF 2011

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, the York River in Maine is the cultural and economic heart of the York River watershed community. Standing on the banks of the river, I heard from community members about what the river means to them and how they have pulled together to protect this waterway. I also heard from the community about how the York River needs additional protections from increasing development pressures. The bill that I am introducing today commissions a feasibility study which will provide a comprehensive overview of the river and will evaluate whether the York River qualifies as a Wild and Scenic Partnership River within the National Park Service's Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Watching two York River lobstermen tie up their boat, I wouldn't have guessed that the York River area is on the northern fringe of the Boston megalopolis in terms of population and development pressures. The towns of York, Eliot, Kittery, and South Berwick recognize that without additional knowledge and management tools, the river's unique cultural, recreational, commercial, and natural resources will be threatened. Support for the York River Study Bill was the result of a partnership between the local environmental community, a local land trust, support from the state, and, most importantly, support from an entire community of Mainers with the foresight to recognize the value of the river to the business community.

The York River is located in southern Maine and runs 11.25 miles from the York Pond in Eliot to the mouth of the river harbor in the town of York. On its way from the land to the sea, this river passes by farms, old mills that date back to the 1600s, wharves and warehouses from the 1700s that tell the story of Maine's rich fishing heritage, public boat launches, working waterfronts, and recreational spots for lunching, fishing and kayaking. There have been concerted and successful efforts over the past ten years by the York Land Trust and the Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative to protect land in the watershed. These efforts have included preserving historic waterfront access, preventing the subdivision of farms, and restoring habitat.

Listed as a Priority Coastal Watershed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the York River watershed encompasses a wide diversity of habitats and ecological communities that support species including the wild brook trout, the Atlantic Salmon, the New England Cottontail, and Maine endangered species, such as the Eastern Box Turtle. Birders come to the York River to see exceptional varieties of birds including the threatened Harlequin Duck, which is seldom seen from shore anywhere in Maine except York County, as well as other species that call

the York River home, like great blue herons, bald eagles and ospreys.

The York River is also a classroom for young environmentalists—a place where students actively learn about the values and ecology of the river habitat through forward-looking environmental curricula developed by the public schools. In addition to its value as a natural setting for young and old learners alike, the river also serves as a recreational center. The waterways of the York River provide fishing grounds for residents and visitors who fish for striped bass and flounder, and the river is increasingly used for sailing, canoeing, and kayaking.

But, the York River is more than a beautiful place with abundant natural resources. It is also a place where people are making their living. Small fishing operations carry on trades that have been practiced on the river for hundreds of years. Sections of the York River are nationally recognized historic working waterfronts, and continue to provide access to the river for water-dependent businesses. Through preservation of historic waterfront access points such as Sewall's Bridge, the York River community has made it possible for local lobstermen to continue to engage in a trade that has shaped and continues to define the spirit of Maine. And, the York River watershed is a place where farmers carry on Maine tradition, growing pumpkins, potatoes and other produce that keep Maine communities healthy. These farmers face the same development pressures that waterfront businesses do, and the York River community has made it possible for farms like Highland Farm to keep providing sustainable local food sources.

Visitors come to the York River to enjoy its unique recreational, scenic, and historic values, and the York River community welcomes them and recognizes that preserving and maintaining this vibrant landscape is of critical economic importance. The York River community's investments in conservation have been substantial and have resulted in the preservation of natural and historical aspects of the river that draw visitors from throughout Maine and throughout the nation. This study bill will be a vital means of continuing to support these important efforts so that the York River can remain a community resource for future generations.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the National Library of Medicine. What began in 1836 as a small collection of medical books on a shelf in the library of the U.S. Army Surgeon General is now the world's largest biomedical library. The National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, is located in Bethesda, Maryland.

Today, the National Library of Medicine is much more than a collection of books. The National Library of Medicine is dedicated to the innovative use of communications and medical information to enhance public access

and understanding of human health as well as to provide valuable information resources for medical research. Whether it is serving to facilitate advances in medical technology, empowering the public to play an active role in managing health and health care, developing groundbreaking electronic health records, or responding to national emergencies with disaster management research, the National Library of Medicine is the world's most trusted resource for health information and innovation.

This historic anniversary is an opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions the National Library of Medicine has made to scientific discovery, health care delivery, and public health response. It is with great honor that I congratulate the National Library of Medicine on 175 years of excellence in medical and health information and look forward to seeing the positive effects its continuing innovation will have in the future.

HONORING NINOSKA PEREZ
CASTELLON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and accomplishments of a distinguished radio journalist, artist and community activist of South Florida, Ninoska Perez Castellon.

Ninoska Perez Castellon is a prominent figure among the exiled Cuban community and deserves our utmost respect for always promoting democracy and freedom. Ninoska was born in Havana, Cuba. At the age of nine, her family was forced to flee from communist Cuba, leaving Ninoska to begin a new life in the United States. Ninoska's family began to transition to their new life by adapting to the American culture and language; nevertheless, their roots were never forgotten.

Being raised and educated in Miami allowed her to be close to her family who ingrained values and morals into Ninoska that hold true today. Her mother, Mrs. Rogelia Castellon has not only been a loving mother but has also been a fountain of knowledge and wisdom for her daughter. Rogelia is an intellectual and indefatigable fighter for the liberty of Cuba. Despite the tribulations she has endured, Rogelia refuses to be discouraged.

Learning perseverance from her mother, Ninoska completed her studies at Miami-Dade College and the University of Miami. At a very young age, Ninoska began her role as an active leader against the tyranny of Castro's communism. She has not only advocated for Cuba's liberty on American soil but her message has reached many hearts and ears around the world. Her voice has broken many barriers of an enslaved country living under the most prolonged and cruelest dictatorship in the continent.

Ninoska and her husband, Roberto Martin Perez, tirelessly condemn each crime committed by the Castro regime. Roberto is an exemplary individual who experienced firsthand the horrors of Cuban prisons with courage and dignity for 28 long years.

Ninoska's profound knowledge and expertise led her to testify before the U.S. Congress as an expert witness on Cuban issues. As a

founder of various Cuban-American organizations, Ninoska has gained the respect of numerous exiled communities residing in South Florida.

Ninoska symbolizes the American dream and is testament to what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication. For over 25 years, she has developed professionalism in her work as a journalist and is now one of the most recognized personalities in radio, television and print media. She currently produces and directs the program Ninoska Mambi on the emblematic Spanish radio station Radio Mambi. In addition to her continued journalistic success, Ninoska is also a talented artist. Her artwork portrays her undying love of Cuba and has been displayed in many galleries.

As a lover of freedom and democracy, Ninoska defends the United States with the same dedication and passion as she does for Cuba. Ninoska, having immense passion, has never ceased to denounce the crimes and abuses of totalitarian regimes. Her ideas and knowledge will be everlasting in the books she has written.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my dear friend, Mrs. Perez Castellon for her morals and principles, her loyalty and love of Cuba, as well as her talent and dedication to our community of South Florida. My most sincere appreciation and admiration goes out to you, Ninoska Perez Castellon, you are a special person who has dedicated a life both, personally and professionally, fighting for democratic principles and the liberty of Cuba.

JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activity:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Capps amendment to H.R. 2021.

I thank my colleague, the gentlelady from California for bringing this amendment to the floor.

The Capps amendment corrects a glaring flaw in this legislation by maintaining the rights of states who have already been delegated authority to continue to regulate and monitor air pollution from offshore oil and gas operations that will ultimately affect their residents.

H.R. 2021 seeks to degrade state permitting powers by cutting time frames, restricting citizen engagement, and shifting responsibilities back to the Environmental Protection Agency.

I find it interesting that some of my colleagues who campaign on small government have decided to fight regulation by stripping authority from local agencies and handing it over to a federal bureaucracy!

Under the Clean Air Act, states have the right to issue permits and regulate emissions according to their own criteria, which either meet or exceed national standards.

States and localities should take the lead in regulating pollution because they are most responsive to the concerns of their citizens and